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NOW, A PLATFORM TO ENABLE SENIOR CITIZENS FIND JOBS

The interactive website, Rozgar Exchange, will be launched on October 1 to mark International Day of Older Persons

TO CONNECT JOB SEEKERS WITH EMPLOYERS

The website will enable virtual matching of the elderly with prospective employers. Those willing to work will have to register themselves and provide education details, along with information on their experience, skills and areas of interests. Rozgar Exchange does not guarantee jobs and offers are at the sole discretion of the participating companies

INDUSTRY BODIES ASKED TO HELP

- Job providers would have to register themselves and specify the task involved and the number of people required
- The scheme will be piloted by the Social Justice Ministry, which has already written to CII, FICCI, Assocham, among others, to offer jobs to the deserving senior citizens

14,567

A HELPLINE TO BE LAUNCHED FOR THE ELDERLY ON PENSION, LEGAL ISSUES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Sidhu yet to take back resignation; demands dismissal of Advocate General Deol & DGP Sahota; Charanjit Channi refuses to yield

Panel to bridge party-govt gap to defuse crisis

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

A coordination committee comprising of the Punjab unit of the Congress, the state government and the AICC is expected to be set up to resolve the crisis triggered by the shock resignation of Navjot Singh Sidhu as state unit chief following his differences with Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. This was decided during the two-hour meeting between Sidhu and Channi on Thursday. According to sources, the panel will meet every week to ensure smooth functioning of the government and its decisions will be unanimous. Channi, Sidhu and AICC general-secretary and Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat will be its members.

A similar panel was formed when Amarinder Singh was the chief minister to coordinate with the state unit of the Congress, but it never met.

Thursday's meeting, however, did not break the deadlock as Sidhu refused to withdraw his resignation despite appeal from Congress leaders.

Sidhu drove down from Patiala to the Punjab Bhawan here to meet Channi, who was tasked by the party high command to negotiate with him. During the meeting, Sidhu questioned the selection of APS Deol as Advocate-General, Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota as DGP, besides certain 'tainted leaders' in the cabinet, especially Rana Gurjit Singh, who had resigned from the Amarinder Singh cabinet in 2018 following corruption allegations.

According to sources, Sidhu demanded during the meeting that both Deol and Sahota be changed. To this, Channi clarifed that Sahota was only given additional charge of DGP and that a panel of names of officers will be sent to the UPSC for short-listing the new DGP. As for the A-G, a team of a special prosecutor and 10 lawyers will be set up. This team will work under the special prosecutor and handle all important cases of the state government, Sidhu was told.

> Sahota was head of SIT investigating Beadbi case under Badal Govt. He wrongfully indicted two Sikh youth for sacrilege & gave clean chit to Badals. In 2018, I assured them our support in fight for Justice
>
> - Navjot Sidhu

'CWC MEET SOON'

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala on Thursday said that a meeting of the Congress Working Committee will be called soon as sought by 23 senior leaders

Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu leaving after a meeting with Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi in Chandigarh on Thursday | PTI

Not joining BJP but won't stay with Cong, says Capt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chandigarh/New Delhi

AMID speculation on his future political trajectory, former chief minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday said he will not join the BJP but will quit the Congress, amid indications that he might float his own political party ahead of the Assembly election due in five months.

"I will not be treated in this humiliating manner. I will not take such insults," he asserted, while stating he was still weighing his options. When asked if he would float a new political party, Amarinder said: "Whatever happens, you will get to know."

While senior party leaders like Ambika Soni and Kamal Nath have been deputed to reach out to Amarinder, he appears to have made up his mind to make a clean break.

Condemning the protests outside senior leader Kapil Sibal's house, Amarinder said the Congress was sidelining and humiliating party veterans to its detriment.

Reiterating his muscular nationalist line, Amarinder said he flagged the issue of Pakistan drones dropping weapons in the state during his meeting with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday.

On Wednesday, he had a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which triggered the rumour of his joining the BJP. He, however, claimed he had urged Amit Shah for an early resolution to the farmers' agitation and a grant of ₹25,000 crore for crop diversification, he said.

Keeping up his attack on Sidhu, Amarinder said he was not the right person to lead Punjab. "He is a mere crowd puller who does not know how to carry his team along," he said. Pointing out that he had worked with many PPCC chiefs, and was himself the party president once, he said: "Sidhu's task was to run the party, while Channi's was to run the government. Officers are appointed by the chief minister and not the party president," he said.

ZYDUS CADILA JAB TO BE ROLLED OUT TOMORROW

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@ New Delhi

AHMEDABAD-based Zydus Cadila's three-dose Covid-19 vaccine is likely to be included in the national vaccination drive from Saturday, according to Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. Officials said negotiations between the Centre and the vaccine maker about the price and supply are in the final stages.

Sources said ZyCoV-D, approved by the drug regulator in August, is likely to be the most expensive Covid-19 vaccine to be procured by the government as it has to be administered in three doses and needs a special applicator instead of a syringe. "ZyCoV-D will be administered on Day 0, Day 28 and Day 56 using an applicator costing ₹25,000, which can be used for 10,000 people," said an official, adding that the government will have to buy the equipment along with the vaccine.

ZyCoV D has also been approved for inoculating 12-17 year-olds. Being a needle-free vaccine, it ensures painless vaccine delivery. Nearly one crore doses of the vaccine are expected to be available in October.

TUNNELLING MISHAP

A sinkhole appeared during Metro work in Bengaluru on Thursday. The tunnel boring machine 'Bhadra' was tunnelling from the upcoming Venkateshpura station towards Tannery Road station when land gave way right under a house. An old open well had been closed and the house built over it | EXPRESS | P2

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 29	SEPT 30
Fresh cases	18,870	23,529
Recoveries	28,178	28,718
Deaths	378	311

KARNATAKA	SEPT 29	SEPT 30
Fresh cases	539	933
Recoveries	591	704
Deaths	17	14

Renukacharya, Jeevaraj back as political secys to CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HONNALI MLA M P Renukacharya and former Sringeri MLA D N Jeevaraj, who had worked as political secretaries to former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, have been reappointed as political secretaries to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. However, N R Santosh, who was also political secretary to Yediyurappa, did not make it.

Official notifications issued on Wednesday stated that the appointments will be with immediate effect and that Renukacharya and Jeevaraj will hold cabinet rank. Both met the CM on Thursday.

A few weeks ago, Renukacharya, a Yediyurappa loyalist, had expressed displeasure over not being inducted in the Bommai cabinet.

Sources pointed out that though Bommai is working hard to strike a balance by meeting party MLAs and the central leaders in Delhi, Yediyurappa's shadow is still evident with the appointment of his loyalists. Yediyurappa resigned as CM on July 26. Bommai kept out some of those from Yediyurappa's cabinet and even appointed IAS officer V Ponnuraj as secretary to the CM, replacing Selvakumar who was secretary to Yediyurappa.

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

WATER WORRIES

Oily discharge from Mangaluru refinery polluting water bodies

DIVYA CUTINHO @ Mangaluru

DISCHARGE of blackish oily water from the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) into the storm water drain in the refinery area, has contaminated water bodies in the region, setting off alarm bells among those living in and around Jokatte and Thokur. Locals complain that they have been seeing blackish water flowing into the Thokur stream since the last one week.

The Nagarika Horata Samiti, a committee formed by locals to take up community issues, complained to MRPL officials about the problems they are facing due to discharge of brackish water. However, contaminated water continues to flow into the Thokur stream and River Phalguni. Locals pointed out that the problem had cropped up about six years ago when petrochemical waste water was let into storm water drains. However, back then, immediate action was taken after a massive protest.

A water body polluted by oily discharge released from MRPL at Thokur in Mangaluru

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, MRPL General Manager (corporate communications) Dr Rudolph Noronha maintained that as soon as they received a complaint from locals about oily water being found in the marshy land in the refinery area, the environment officials checked the area and found layers of the oil in the water. Some units were shut down owing to low demand in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and they carried out maintenance of those units, he pointed out.

CONTINUED ON: P7

'Contaminated' water kills two

KALABURAGI: Two women from Dastapur village in Kamalapur taluk succumbed to gastroenteritis on Wednesday, reportedly after consuming contaminated water from a borewell in the village. According to District Health Officer Dr Sharanabasappa Ganajalkhed, 39 more people from the village are suffering from gastroenteritis since the last four days, including 10 who were admitted on Thursday. Some have been discharged. A team of doctors has been sent to the village to treat the patients and an ambulance stationed there. Dr Ganajalkhed said Kamalabai Kobre (48) was admitted to the GIMS Hospital on Tuesday and died on Wednesday, while Draupati (55) was brought dead to the Primary Health Centre at Mahagaon. ENS

Cold ocean current kills fish off Karwar coast

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Karwar

AN unusual climatic phenomenon is believed to be responsible for the largescale deaths of the Silver Croaker fish along the Kasarkod beach in Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district. According to marine experts, cold ocean currents, which can be an early sign of global warming, could have caused the fish deaths.

The 5 km-long Kasarkod beach was found strewn with about five tons of dead Silver Croaker fish. Local fishermen initially suspected it to be a case of poisoning or the result of illegal fishing methods. However, the cause was a drastic change in water temperature, pointed out marine expert Prakash Mesta who conducted some checks.

"The water was so cold that it felt as if some unimaginably huge block of ice had fallen into the sea. The cold current stretched for up to 2 km," claimed Ganapathi Tandel, a fisherman.

Explaining what may have caused so many fish to die, Mesta said, "This particular species of fish, a bottom dweller, cannot tolerate extreme cold temperatures. There are seven ocean currents. One is linked to Canada, which connects with the Indian Ocean. If the water gets cold there due to melting of icebergs, the water here also gets cold. The bottom sea fish are unable to bear this sudden dip in temperature and are washed ashore dead."

Tandel said that he had noticed a similar occurrence several years ago, when Silver Croaker fish were found dead on the beach, but only about 5 to 10 kg.

"But this time, a lot more fish have died. Our entire community got together and collected about 250 baskets of fish, weighing 5 tons, from the shore," he said. Being edible, the fish was sent to a fish oil factory in Kundapur.

A heap of dead Silver Croaker fish at Kasarkod beach | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

SHARP REMARK

SC poser to Centre on farmers blocking highways

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre what has it done to address the issue of continuing blockade of highways amid farmers' protest. While stating problems could be redressed through judicial forum, agitation or parliamentary debates, a bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh asked: "How can the highways be blocked? Where does this end?" The court made the observation while hearing a plea filed by a Noida resident, claiming hardships due to farmers' protest on UP-Delhi border. The matter has been posted to October 4 | P9

TRIBUNAL ORDER

ZEEL asked to consider Invesco's EGM request

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal on Thursday directed Zee Entertainment Enterprises to convene a board meeting to consider its shareholder Invesco's request to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The tribunal also directed it to communicate the board's decisions appropriately to its shareholders. The US-based Invesco had moved the tribunal seeking the EGM, removal of Zee's chief executive and managing director Punit Goenka and two other directors, and the reconstitution of the board with the appointment of six new directors | P15

DIDI'S TEST

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after casting her vote in the Bhowanipore bypoll, where she is a candidate. The voter turnout at 5 pm was 53.32%. In May last, 61.79% polling was recorded | PTI | P10

MCLAREN INVESTIGATION

Boxing bouts fixed at 2016 Olympics: Probe report

LAUSANNE: Boxing bouts for medals at the 2016 Olympics were fixed by "complicit and compliant" referees and judges, an investigation said. Investigator Richard McLaren was appointed by the International Boxing Association and found AIBA officials selected referees and judges to ensure that bouts could be manipulated in Olympic qualifying and at the Rio Games. "Key personnel decided that the rules did not apply to them," said McLaren, who added there was a "culture of fear, intimidation and obedience in the ranks of referees and judges." | P17

DATA BREACH

SWR construction website hacked, threat posted

BENGALURU: The website of the construction department of the South Western Railway (SWR) was allegedly hacked by an extremist group recently. The group also posted an abusive message to the Indian Railways and warned them of similar cyber attacks across the country. According to sources, the website www.cnbnc.in, run by the Personnel Department of SWR, was hacked on September 21. The site has details of employees, policy circulars, non-gazetted orders, and other details. "None of the data has been stolen," a source claimed | P7